

# SCOTT COUNTY KICKER.

Vol. I.

BENTON, MO., FEBRUARY 22, 1902.

No. 15.

## Phil. Hafner Interviewed.

### A Farmer asks about Existing Conditions.—Evil Influence of Money in Politics.—Unequal Assessments.

Last week a tenant farmer who has spent his life in producing wealth from mother earth, entered the Kicker office and was asked to be seated. He is an industrious man and has no bad habits—yet his face was pinched and his clothes were not of the sort that should cover the body of a man who has helped to make Scott county the garden spot of Southeast Missouri. His word is as good for a dollar as is that of any man in the county, and his back is bent from toil. After a brief conversation the editor ventured to remark: "How do you like the Kicker?"

"I like it very well," replied the farmer, "but it makes me mad every time I read it."

"What do you get mad at?"

"Why, at the way the men elect to represent us do. If what you say is so, then it is just awful."

"Well, what you see in the Kicker is true—and the story has not been half told. Conditions are very bad."

The farmer brushed his hand across his face as if in a deep study and then asked: "What can we do about it?"

"That is hard to say. The producers—the workers—are so numerous that it is difficult to get them to act in union, while the non-producers—the dividend mongers—are comparatively few and thoroughly organized. When the producers attempt an organization their leaders are usually bribed to use in the interest of some political party and thereby wreck the organization."

"Do you think things will ever get better during our lifetime?"

The editor hesitated a moment and then replied: "No. The trouble is that the people are kept in ignorance. The avenues of information—the press—and to a very great extent, the pulpit and our higher schools—are controlled by capital. Our great daily papers are in themselves great corporations, and their stocks, or shares, are placed upon the market just as the stocks or shares of railroads or trust companies. The man who holds railroad stocks and bank stocks and trust stocks also holds newspaper stocks, and it is through the newspaper that he defends all his other interests. These newspapers have no politics, yet they pretend to be either Democratic or Republican, and it is their mission to stir up strife and create prejudices among the people and keep them fighting among themselves. In order that these poisonous publications might receive the widest circulation possible among the farmers, Congress passed a law permitting newspapers to go through the mails at one cent per pound, while the government must pay the railroads six cents per pound for carrying the same. And now you can get a metropolitan newspaper, twice-a-week, for fifty cents to one dollar a year—less than the cost of the white paper used."

The farmer listened attentively, and, after a brief hesitation, said: "It looks like the country newspapers would keep us posted."

The editor smiled as he answered: "That is where you are up against it again. As a rule country newspaper men are poor and have to do much of their own work. They have little time to think and usually get their ideas from the metropolitan newspapers that advocate its political views. Most country newspapers are the private organs of a set of local politicians who want to be 'urged' for office, or of some special interest, and the editor has no voice as to the policy the paper must pursue."

The farmer shook his head disapprovingly and then asked, "Do you think it will get any worse?"

"I don't see how it can get much worse," replied the editor. "The chairman of your Democratic county committee says that money now rules and will continue to rule, and that there is no use fighting it. If the chairman is correct, I can see no hope for improvement. He wants us to get out and chase the imperialistic bubble, and overlooks the fact that we now have an imperial government in its very worst form. An imperial government is a government controlled by the aristocratic or moneyed classes, and where the masses have little or nothing to say. What else have we in this country today?"

"It looks bad," seriously interrupted the farmer.

"It is bad," continued the editor. "But there is yet a ray of hope. Some of the ablest writers in the country are taking up the cause of the people with telling effect. The people want to vote right—both Democrats and

Republicans—but they are constantly misled and confused by capitalistic newspapers and designing politicians. The masses realize that something is wrong, but they know not what. They are ready to strike the necessary blow to loosen the chains that bind them, but they know not how nor where to strike. If there was a paper like the Kicker in every county in the United States the desired relief would come before the dawn of another year."

Our farmer friend drifted into Wonderland for a moment and then asked: "Why are there not more papers like the Kicker? All of them pretend to be friendly to the farmer."

"Yes, they claim to be, but are they? When a confidence man or a shell game operator singles you out for a victim he will always pretend to be your friend and interested in your welfare. By this I do not mean to say that country newspaper men are dishonest, but I do want to impress upon you that the influences behind them are often bad. These influences control quite all the printing that is profitable to a newspaper and it is not given to newspapers like the Kicker that refuse to sneeze every time one of our leading citizens takes snuff. That is why there are not more papers like the Kicker."

"Well, you are doing very well, ain't you?"

"Yes I am doing much better than I expected. I have a home and an office building and need pay no rent, yet I started this paper expecting to lose money the first year, but to my great surprise the business has been on a paying basis from the start. The 'tolling masses' have rallied to my support wonderfully, and their support is all I ask. I, for one, am satisfied to take as my constituents the tolling masses, and will cheerfully grant to the other newspapers of the county all the so-called 'leading citizens,' and will then feel that I have worked off on them a most admirable gold brick that would be thrown aside in patching a shoe in a nigger's cabin."

"What do you mean by 'leading citizens'?"

"By 'leading citizens' I mean a class of political free-booters and politicians who, through their newspaper organs, continually 'pull' themselves. However, the practice has been so much ridiculed in this county that it has been, to a very great extent, abandoned except in Sikeston. Down in that end of the county there are a few shysters who find it necessary to have an organ to prop up their character. These men are also politicians and will spend freely of their money to elect to office men who will serve them when necessary."

"A good, well-to-do farmer from Diehlstadt recently said to me that I was opposed to every man who had accumulated a little something. This farmer never made a graver mistake. I have no objection to the legitimate accumulation of wealth, and every observing citizen must admit that the greatest fortunes are the result of unjust laws, and I do not like to see men elected to office because they have money, or because some one is behind them who has money."

"It was the political influence of one man who caused what I consider a grave injustice to one of our citizens. It is political influence that often causes many injustices. In my issue of December 21 I gave the facts regarding the increase of the personal assessment of C. D. Matthews, of Sikeston, from \$75,000 to \$200,000. Sikeston is quite a city with many wealthy people, and while the personal assessment of Mr. Matthews, exclusive of his bank, is \$200,000, the personal assessment of all the other citizens combined—and many of them very wealthy—is only \$95,007!"

"What I favor is an EQUALIZATION OF TAXES. I do not believe it was the intention of our Board of Equalization to do Mr. Matthews an injustice. A mass of stuff was presented purporting to be evidence, but which was really no evidence at all, and it is altogether probable that the Board did not realize that they were asked to do this to gratify the personal malice of a business rival."

"The next Board should go down deep after the tax-dodgers. They are numerous in the county. If Mr. Matthews is a tax-dodger he is not alone in the game. There are others. My personal acquaintance with Mr. Matthews is limited, yet I am quite familiar with his reputation, which

is to the effect that he attends to his own business. I have never known of his dabbling in politics or of running a man for office that he expected to use. Nor have I ever seen him here lobbying around the county court trying to get 'road appropriations' so as to give employment to his tenants or relatives. Neither have I any recollection of ever having seen advertised in the newspapers trust deed or mortgage sales where he sought to close out some poor devil to get his land. On the contrary, I have evidence of his having furnished the money to save the homes of families from the clutches of so-called 'leading-citizens.'"

**Real Estate Transfers.**  
Since our last issue the following real estate transfers occurred:

Deeds of right-of-way to lands to Memphis, St. Louis and Southeastern Ry. Co. from W. E. Stubblefield, Jr., A. J. Matthews, C. & A. J. Matthews, Frank Feldon, Joseph Burger, O. E. Kendall.

Wm. Hunter to R. A. Sparks, 187 acres in 6-27-15, \$1,375.

John R. Finley to T. F. Frazer and J. M. Lynch, 40 acres in 10-28-14, \$500.

August Burgess to R. B. Whitesell, 40 acres in 3-27-15, \$833.

Andrew J. Chewning to James A. Chewning, 40 acres in 3-28-14, \$450.

James A. Chewning to Andrew J. Chewning, interest in 40 acres in 3-28-14, \$100.

Clara H. Gray to trustees M. E. Church, South, church lot in Grayboro, \$1.

**Marriage Licenses Granted.**

Alva Hodges.....Blodgett  
Flora May Blair.....Blodgett

Elymer Hunter (col).....Commerce  
Syren Thompson (col).....Commerce

Ellis A. Inman.....Sikeston  
Ellis A. Inman.....Sikeston

Joshua Welch.....Benton  
Lizzie Harris.....Benton

B. Morley.....Bleda  
Lillie Forester.....Delta

W. A. Searbrough.....Blodgett  
Virgie Burton.....Blodgett

**Direct Legislation.**

**Appeal to Reason (Socialist).**  
An Oregon reader desires an explanation of the Direct Legislation principles on which the voters of that state decide at the election next June. The proposed constitutional amendment provides that 8 per cent of the voters may petition for the adoption of any law they may frame, and at the next regular election such law must be submitted to the voters for adoption or rejection by a majority. Such law is not subject to veto by the governor. That if any law passed by the legislature shall be petitioned by 5 per cent of the electors, it shall be referred to a vote of the electors before it is adopted. If they reject the law it shall not be valid. I do not apprehend that many laws will be initiated by the voters, nor will many be referred to them. The fact that such a law can be enforced at any time will have the effect of preventing and bad legislation, which is always in the interest of some class or corporation. Bad laws are always bribes, directly or indirectly, and would not be entertained by any legislative body if they were not. When those in whose interest they are passed know that such laws will arouse opposition and will cause petitions to be circulated and have the law referred to the people, (and you can't fool all the people all the time), they will no longer bribe the legislators, for it would not do them any good. If this amendment becomes a law, which it certainly will, having twice passed a republican legislature and signed by a republican governor, Oregon will be the first state in the union to have a republican form of government. It is singular that it should be advocated by a party whose record has been vicious in the extreme, whose acts have always been for the corporate and trust interests. In no Democratic state with all the clamor of that party about its being opposed to trust rule, has any such legislation been attempted. The Appeal has seldom occasion to find anything commendable in the trust-owned republican party, but it is willing to give it credit in this instance as making a new departure in the interest of the people of that state at least.

**Robt. L. Stubblefield.**  
The announcement of Robert L. Stubblefield appears in this issue as a candidate for re-election to the office of circuit clerk, subject to the primary. Mr. Stubblefield is no stranger to the people of Scott county and has filled his official position with credit to himself and satisfaction to the people. A renomination would only be a fitting acknowledgment of services already rendered.

**Alex. Wright.**  
Alex. Wright, of Sylvania township, announces his candidacy for re-election to the office of probate judge, subject to the primary. Mr. Wright is an old citizen of the county who stands high in the estimation of all the people. He has filled the office four years with perfect satisfaction to the people and credit to himself. He is a good man.

**Frank L. Heiserer.**  
Frank L. Heiserer announces as a candidate for constable of Sylvania township, subject to the primary. Frank is the son of Simon Heiserer, is honest, and is well and favorably known to the people of his township. He has never before asked for office and is qualified to fill the position which he desires.

**Scott county candidates are announcing in a New Madrid county paper. Don't they know where they are "at"?**  
DeSoto masons will build an \$8000 Masonic Temple in the spring.

## THE SOUTHEAST.

### Doings and Happenings in Neighboring Counties.

**Pemiscot Argus:** Mr. Vandiver is a worker, not a blow-hard politician and wire-puller, but spends his time in protecting the interests of the people. Words in his praise from us are useless to the people who know him. He is a man of great worth and power and his shrewd and earnest work is giving him a national reputation and influence, and it goes without question that the longer he holds his present office the more weight and power he will have. Mr. Vandiver is a plain man, the same wherever you meet him, and that means that he is a tried and true friend of the people whose highest ambition is to serve them ably and well. Morally, politically and socially, he is a clean man. He worked for the primaries and is not afraid to trust the people, and we believe when the ballots are counted it will be shown that the people reciprocate that trust.

**Marble Hill Press:** The Charleston Enterprise came out in its last issue squarely for Mr. Vandiver for congress. Mr. Vandiver has proven himself a mighty safe man, and is better than ever prepared to render valuable services to his district and the country generally, and the Enterprise, like a great many others, believes there is to be nothing gained by swapping horses while crossing the stream.

An old farmer who lives near Caruthersville, says the Democrat was in one of our dry goods store trading recently. After paying his bill he got his buggy and set out for home in a long trot. Some one asked him why he was in such a hurry, and he replied: "I got Sal a new dress, and I'm trying to get home with it before it gets out of style."

A negro member of Richards & Pringle minstrels, a traveling troupe, was lynched at New Madrid Saturday night. Some boys "blissed" the negro during the performance and he began shooting into the audience, wounding one man. The negro was hanged about an hour later.

**Jackson Cash-Book:** Editor Smith of the Benton Record criticizes our grammar. Our grammar may be bad, but it is better than Smith's democracy, which we find in his last week's issue apologizing for republicanism and advocating a goldbug for congress.

**Leslie Steck,** of Cape Girardeau, will likely be a cripple for life, the result of a coasting accident last week. He is a nephew of Mrs. Steck, of Benton. The city authorities have prohibited coasting in the Cape—"after the horse is stolen they lock the stable."

Condemnation proceedings have been instituted against that part of the Doyle estate wanted for the railroad shops at Cape Girardeau. Now-a-days when a big concern wants your property they're going to get it. It's the "law."

The Cape Girardeau Trust Company will be incorporated within the new day. It will be capitalized at \$1,000,000, and the Cape papers claim that "all the moneyed men of Southeast Missouri are interested in the concern."

**Jim Bush** shot and killed Robert White, in Pemiscot county, one day last week. White was acting the part of "pencemaker" in a quarrel between Bush and another man. It is thought the murderer will be lynched.

A train load of horses, enroute to New Orleans to be shipped to the British army in South Africa, caught fire and one carload of the animals were burned to death, last Saturday, at West Plains.

**Mrs. Frank Gault** was fatally burned while starting a fire with coal oil, last week, at Doe Run. Benton ladies who have to "crawl out" and start the fire should take warning.

The Iron Mountain railroad had four serious wrecks within twenty-four hours last week. Only two men were injured, but the damage to the rolling stock was immense.

**Charleston Enterprise:** Mr. Russell's principal rooters about town also had "some doubt," and now declare with him that the "silver question is dead."

Even "Dolly" Mosley, republican, editor of the Bloomfield Courier, is against Mr. Vandiver for congress. Mosley is the man Vandiver beat four years ago.

If all the new railroads—claimed by our exchanges—are built, there will not be a forty-acre melon patch left in Southeast Missouri.

Scott county candidates are announcing in a New Madrid county paper. Don't they know where they are "at"?

DeSoto masons will build an \$8000 Masonic Temple in the spring.

## REAL TAIL-TWISTERS.

### Frank McGuire Puts Some Very Pointed Questions to Joe Russell.

**Jackson Cash-Book.**  
To Hon. Joseph J. Russell, candidate for Congress:

An old citizen of Southeast Missouri, who is regarded as perfectly honest and reliable, has stated that he heard you denounce, in a conversation at Delta station in 1893, the free silver leaders of the Democratic party during the campaign of that year, who included such men as Bryan, Stone, Chairman Jones, and our State Senators, as a set of "cranks" and "asses."

It is also reported that you stated, during the campaign of that year, that if you knew your vote would elect him you would not do so.

It is also said that you have been, and are now a speculator in the products of farm labor on the stock exchanges and grain pit.

Again, it is claimed that you did not hesitate to declare in 1896 that you were a goldbug.

Now the Democratic voters of this district do not want to nominate you for Congress if you regarded their distinguished leaders in 1896 as a set of "cranks" and "asses" because they did not believe like you on the money question. And they would like for you to tell them whether or not you made such a statement.

Neither do Democrats want to nominate you for Congress if you said you intended to vote for Bryan, but would not do so if you knew your vote would elect him. Because, should you be elected to Congress, what assurance have they that you would not vote for some Democratic measure when you thought your votes would not pass them, but refuse to vote for them if you thought your vote would get them through? You ought to say to the voters also whether this report is true.

We hardly think the Democrats of this district, especially the farmers, want to send you to Congress if you are a gambler and speculator in the products of their labor on the exchange and in the grain pit. No gambler should be elected to Congress if it can be helped. You know how hard honest old Wm. H. Hatch of this State worked for years trying to get a bill through Congress prohibiting gambling in the pits in farm products. He died fighting for the interest of the farmers. If another congressman should introduce a measure to prohibit gambling in farm products, what assurance have we that you would vote to stop gambling in farm products—in other words, vote to kill the hen they say has laid you golden eggs? This is another charge you are asked to answer.

The 28,000 Democrats in this district who supported the Kansas City platform do not want to send you to Congress if you are a goldbug. If the statement that you were in favor of the gold standard in 1896 is not true you are asked to deny it.

Now, here is another matter these 28,000 Democrats would like to have cleared up. You admit in your published statement announcing your candidacy that you were opposed to the 16 to 1 ratio in 1896 and wanted the Democratic party to declare in favor of free coinage by making the government guarantee the parity of the metals. If this had been done the Democrats would be where the Republicans are now on the money question, forcing the government to exchange gold for silver dollars. The Republican committee on coinage has reported a bill for this purpose which will doubtless be passed through Congress. Now, Mr. Russell, if you were in Congress, would you not have to vote for this Republican gold standard measure, if you hold the views on the money question your circular letter admits that you held in 1896?

If Mr. Russell is the true and loyal Democrat his friends say he is, no doubt he will clear these matters up. As such a Democrat, we do not see how he can afford to let them pass unnoticed.

**The New Railroad.**  
Judging from the deeds for right of way recorded during the past week, it is now quite certain that the new railroad route will be around the foot-hills, leaving the S. M. & A. tracks at Beechwald and passing in a southwesterly direction through Rockview, around the hills east of Bleda through Oran and about a mile south of Morley and thence on south through the western limits of Sikeston.

**R. L. Harrison.**  
Among the announcements this week will be found that of Robert L. Harrison, who asks a renomination at the hands of his party—subject to the primary election. Mr. Harrison has served as collector of the revenue for one term and has proven himself a very efficient and trustworthy official. He is careful and attentive to his duties, and the people will not make a mistake by re-electing him.

**Edward L. Miller.**  
The announcement of Edward L. Miller appears in this issue of the Kicker as a candidate for constable of Sylvania township, subject to the primary. Mr. Miller stands high among his neighbors as an honorable, upright citizen, and has the necessary qualifications to fill the office of constable.

**A Difficulty Removed.**  
"Dick, when you divided those five carmelas with little sister did you give her three?"

"No, ma, I guessed they wouldn't come out even—so I ate one 'for I be gun to divide."—Puck.

## From Kelso.

Joe Duemy, Frank and William Schaefer, Moses Drury, Chas. Blattel and Emil Schlosser went to the swamps west of here Monday night to annihilate the wolves. It is said that they could not get near enough the wolves to sprinkle salt on their tails, and therefore came back empty handed.

Leo Diebold's general repair shop is running full time. Leo is agent for the Peerless engines and thrashers and his father has bought a 30-horse power engine for his sawmill. Leo is also agent for a battery lamp that is quite a novelty and promises to revolutionize lighting in the country.

A serious affliction befell the Bandenist family, Tuesday, in the death of their trusted horse, Jeff. Poor Jeff was a victim of the sheet. He came here from Oklahoma and his pedigree was never written. The bereaved family have the sympathy of all.

Landry Drury went to the Cape Wednesday to bring down sample McCormick binders, mowers and rakes to show the farmers. Arnold Klein is soliciting agent for this section.

Mike Welter will engage in the lumber business as soon as the weather opens, and will have a yard here.

Dr. Williams has been called to Grayboro several times this week. Pneumonia is prevalent there.

Mr. Widor, of the Leader, is in St. Louis. It is his intention to move from Kelso next week.

John Sailer intends to enlarge his harness shop to accommodate his increasing business.

**From Oran.**  
The Cape people have hustled around and procured the shops and roundhouse for the new railroad. Oran should have had these but our people were napping and hence lost out. This enterprise would have brought men and money to our town.

We may have an opera house yet. The Lemp company is talking of putting up a brick building, the upstairs to be used as an opera house.

Rumor says we are to have a new flouring mill in the near future. Let the good work go on. Oran will someday be a city.

Miss Blanche Finley has returned home. She will remain until some funds accumulate in the Randolph school treasury.

The Baptist meeting will begin the first instead of the latter part of the week, as before stated.

John Jones is again at Belmont. He spent last week in Oran with the family of J. W. Censon.

Mr. and Mrs. Theon Heiserer, of Essex, visited Mrs. Tenkoff here last Sunday.

Mesdames Williams, Censon and Rockwell visited Morley Tuesday.

Andy Metz has received a fine new piano for his daughter, Jennie.

A number of fine race horses have been brought to town recently.

Mrs. P. R. Williams is visiting her friends here this week.

**From New Hamburg.**  
For the first time since their arrival the twin girls of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Essner were brought to New Hamburg Wednesday by their mother. In order that the little ones might be entirely comfortable the mother brought along the baby carriage in the sleigh.

A boy was born to Mrs. Lawrence Westrich Sunday and was christened "Henry" on Monday. Otto Westrich and Miss Emma Grojean stood as sponsors.

August Dohogne was here Wednesday and says the proposed new railroad will cut up some very fine farms in his neighborhood.

With six teams Theophil and Wendell Scherer and Joseph Westrich moved the house of Theophil a quarter of a mile.

John Linhart and John Stike visited the Cape Monday and Frank Grojean went up Tuesday.

Leo Grojean says he don't get any news except when he goes to Benton in a sleigh.

Prof. Schulte has been engaged in sausage making. He is said to be an expert.

The infant child of Louis J. LeGrand was buried here Tuesday.

Father Holmbacher spent Sunday afternoon with Father Moenig.

John Harrison, of Sandywoods, was here Tuesday.

**From Morley.**  
Morley boasts of a man, 57 years old, who has lived in this county all his life and was never out of the State. He has been in only three counties of the State, and has never seen the inside of a passenger coach.

Eva, the 3-year-old child of John Leo, was seriously burned about the face and arms one day last week. Her clothing caught fire from the stove.

Police court has been grinding all week. Magistrate Gupton and City Attorney Williams have been the busiest men in Morley.

Miss Ella Merritt left on the noon train Sunday for St. Louis to "post up" on the latest creations in head-gear for women.

Grandma Hudson fell and dislocated her hip, and is now in a precarious condition.

Miss Lena Harris visited her sister, Mrs. S. P. Marshall, at Crowder, last week.

G. H. Dutler shipped a car load of stock from this station this week.

Dr. Tomlinson made a business trip to Illinois this week.

Our people are tiring of this very unpleasant weather.

## From Commerce.

The Grand Chain Milling Co. shipped out forty cars of wheat this week. They sold at the top market price, but if they had to pay "melon freight rates" on Peavine the profits brought will not be large.

Prof. Rapp has handed in his resignation as teacher of our school, to take effect next week. Prof. says the atmosphere hereabouts is not conducive of good health.

The Oran Ben Haws are coming in regular on the 28th. If you want to ride upon the chariot you must be on the qui vive.

A man who knows says that the Ireland mercantile establishment will change hands in the near future.

E. A. Johnson and Hub Smith have filled two big ice houses since the freeze.

Willie Strublefield, of Oran, is here to be steamboat agent this season.

Miss Addie Wylie was over to our town—Lessee—last Monday.

## From Vanduser.

The house of James Farmer came near being destroyed by fire one day this week. Fortunately the fire was extinguished before much damage was done.

George Layton is getting material on the ground preparatory to erecting a new store building and Grand opera house.

We learn that Crowder has several cases of smallpox. We are not going down to investigate.

Owen Carver, of Morehouse, spent Sunday here. Owen has many friends in Vanduser.

Jeff. McCarver was here one day last week—looking 'round.

Candidates are beginning to call on the boys.

## 'ROUND-ABOUT.

Leo Heiserer went to Essex Monday. It is to be regretted that he could not take back with him the smallpox he brought here. His little brother is now afflicted with it, as is also Miss Grace Adams. The families where the disease lurks are quarantined, and a further spread may be averted.

Henry Kemper authorizes us to announce that there will be citizens' meeting in the hall at Bleda at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon, for the purpose of considering a proposition of building a Catholic church at that place. Parties interested are requested to attend.

**For Sale:** A good farm of 192 acres—130 acres in cultivation. Good 2-story frame dwelling, granary, barn, plenty of good water and all modern conveniences. Within 30 minutes' drive of either Oran, New Hamburg or Benton. For further information apply at the Kicker office.

W. B. Jenkins, engineer on the little railroad at the Gratz mill, was in Benton Saturday. He says there is not much doing at the mill at present, but that the railroad will be extended to Blodgett in the spring.

Ben E. Poe, station agent here, resigned his position and left for his home at Cape Girardeau Thursday. Mr. Poe was courteous and attentive to his business and the people regret his departure.

The local campaign is creating no stir. People seem to be disgusted with politics and, in the face of recent developments in Missouri, who can blame them?

Our old friends, Jas. W. Baty and young Jim Chewning, are waiting on customers that enter the store at the big mill southeast of Benton.

Somebody ought to have killed the ground hog before he had a chance to see his shadow. He had no business striking his nose out.

We understand that Walter Goddard, of Sandywoods, has leased the Walker House and will take charge of same this week.

Walter Goddard has taken charge of the Walker House, in Benton. Walter is a good man and welcome him in our midst.

Albert M. Engel, formerly of this county but now of Oklahoma, spent the forepart of the week in the county on business.

Attorneys Arnold and Kingsbury went to St. Louis Tuesday to attend a meeting of the Grand Lodge A. O. U. W.

Uncle Billy Pobst, of Bleda, contemplates going to Bollinger county to buy a team of mules for his son William.

The Kicker has just received a nice line of round-cornered candidate cards. Candidates should investigate.

The Kicker has just received a nice line of round-cornered candidate cards. Candidates should investigate.

E. H. Smith moved his family up from Charleston the first of the week. They are boarding with Mrs. Norrid.